

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 53 No. 24

June 22, 2007

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Student athletes

Aviano High School students who are interested in playing sports must pick up the necessary forms at the school and get physicals. Call Ext. 5877.

Holiday closure

The Aviano Commissary and Grab 'n Go will be closed on the Fourth of July holiday.

Membership night

La Bella Vista Club is hosting an adults only Wild-Wild West membership night from 6 to 9 p.m. today. Cost is free for members and \$15 for non-members.

Civilian Personnel

The Civilian Personnel Flight has moved to Bldg. 600 in Area E. The flight can be reached at extensions 7291, 7307, 4057, and 4058. Those needing urgent help, can contact Bessie Edwards, civilian personnel officer, at 335-103-0487 or 347-085-6340.

Additionally, the classification section has merged with the Manpower and Organizational Flight. For classification assistance, call Allison Wray at Ext. 4042.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibidapo

An F-16 from the 555th Fighter Squadron taxis at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea for their 120 day deployment Tuesday.

555th FS returns to the "Wolfpack"

By Staff Sgt. Alice Moore
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

After being away for years, the 555th Fighter Squadron reunited with the 8th Fighter Wing's "Wolfpack" during the squadron's deployment to Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Tuesday.

The 555th FS has lineage to the "Wolfpack" dated back to 1966 when the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron moved to Ubon Air Base, Thailand, to join the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Currently based out of Aviano Air Base, Italy, approximately 300 Airmen and 18 F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft arrived here marking the first United States Air Forces In Europe unit to deploy to a Pacific Air Forces unit as an Air Expeditionary Force rotation for the next four months. The unit will fully integrate and be a part of the 8th FW.

"They will be integrating completely and totally with our base and our ROK (Republic of Korea) partners."

See 555th, page 7

Air University: Colleges and universities partner with the Air Force to offer bachelor's degree opportunities. Log onto the AF portal for info.

*World's Finest
MMVA/DUI counter*

12 days ...

Since Aviano's last DUI.

88 ...

Major Motor Vehicle Accidents



Special delivery

Family receives a special gift Sunday—the only baby born here on Father's Day.

- Page 7



Almalfi coast

Ensure you stop in to peep this picturesque coast during your Summer getaway trips here in Italy.

- Page 14



Vigileer
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Deadline info: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

Editorials: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with the community. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public.

World's Finest: Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

U.S. Air Force

SECAF's force reduction update

Probably the most difficult part of my job as your Secretary is releasing patriotic Americans from serving in our Air Force, but it is a step we nevertheless must take. One of the duties we have as Airmen is assuring future Airmen that they will be as capable and confident to accomplish the mission as we are today. We are faced with the need to ensure ongoing GWOT operations and personnel readiness across the spectrum of conflict around the world; versus the age, health, capacity and capability of our current air and space inventories as we move into an uncertain world future.

Faced with these competing demands, our options are to either let our unmatched capabilities wither or cut our manning to invest in tomorrow's war-fighting capabilities. We must accept the latter - as painful as it is - if we are to remain the world's premier air, space and cyberspace force.

I know this means more of our fine Airmen will be departing our service early, and I am not happy about it. But ultimately our duty is to answer our Nation's call, and to fund our readiness requirements means we must also reduce personnel.

The 40,000 Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian Full-time Equivalent cuts highlighted in the Fiscal Year (FY) 07 President's Budget freed critical resources. We are using these funds to begin recapitalizing and modernizing our air, space and cyberspace systems to fight the GWOT, and give our future Airmen the tools to dominate all levels of warfare and across the spectrum of conflict.

We cannot continue to merely "get by" with old equipment. Our aging airplanes are increasingly expensive to operate and

maintain, and many are on flight restrictions. Meanwhile, our enemies and potential challengers continually upgrade their air defenses, strike and space capabilities, and cyber attack systems.

We are continuing to pare back our force structure from the 349,000 Airmen on Active Duty at the end of FY 06, to a smaller, leaner and more capable force by FY 13. There are no plans to extend our restructuring beyond the current 40,000 reduction; in fact our drawdown is subject to change as we reap the benefits of productivity-enhancing initiatives and as we evaluate Army and Marine Corps end-strength increases. Land component growth may require our Total Force drawdown to level off, while the size of specific elements within our Air Force might actually need to grow as well.

We're also continuing Force Shaping initiatives that move the right number of Airmen into the right jobs to relieve stress in critically manned AFSCs. Rest assured, we are doing all we can to ensure the Air Force is properly shaped to optimize our contributions to the joint fight, and to ensure our Airmen are equipped to dominate air, space and cyberspace. Thank you for your service, commitment, and dedication to our Air Force and Nation during these challenging times.



Michael W. Wynne
Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Aviano Volunteer of the Week

Name: Master Sgt. Charles Fetterolf

Why nominated: Sergeant Fetterolf is the Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troop 323. He leads 27 youth and 12 adults and earned Mediterranean District Committee Chairman of the year. He is also the Chairman of the Aviano Airman's Attic and was responsible for moving it to its new location in Area 2.



Morón Air Base changes command

MORÓN AIR BASE, Spain – Lt. Col. Sean Gallagher took command of the 496th Air Base Squadron at Morón Air Base, Spain, from Lt. Col. Jerome Traughber June 13.

The 496th ABS is a geographically separated unit of Aviano.

Colonel Gallagher is an airfield operations officer who recently served as the operations officer for the 46th Operations Support Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Colonel Traughber is heading to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., where he will be attending Air War College.

"It was truly my honor to serve with everyone at Morón, including the active duty, guard, reserve, civil service and contractors," said Colonel Traughber. "They inspired me every day with their dedication and professionalism."

During his speech he thanked the Spanish Air Force installation commander, Col. León Antonio Machés Michavila for his support to his American guests and his efforts to continue the strong relationship between the United States Air Force and the Spanish Air Force.

Colonel Gallagher took command of a very important mission in the global war on terrorism.

The base is the key "Air Bridge" between the U.S. and Southwest Asia. The base is also one of three Transoceanic Abort Landing sites for the NASA shuttle. It serves as both launch and in-Orbit emergency landing site.

In his assumption of command speech, Colonel Gallagher noted that it was his previous experience and perspective that will help him roll the mission of Morón Air Base into the missions of the other major commands.

Heritage: The Aviano Native American Heritage committee seeks volunteers for November's events. To volunteer, call Ext. 7478.

Crime in the local area

Courtesy of the 31st Security Forces Squadron

Crime Prevention might have prevented several incidents this week, including a number of vehicle and house break-ins.

June 4 – An Airman discovered damage to her 2006 Volvo. The damage consisted of a dent and chip in the rear driver's side door. *Hit and runs are on the rise. If you hit a vehicle be responsible and leave your contact information. You wouldn't like it if someone did this to you. If you have insurance, it shouldn't be a problem to leave your contact information. Do the right thing.*

June 6 – After leaving the commissary, an Airman discovered his wallet containing his ID card, license, and three credit cards missing. *Have you seen the AFN commercial when the woman ordering coffee leaves her wallet on the counter and another woman picks it up? Wow, that stuff really happens!*

June 6 – An Airman's family member was caught shoplifting at the base exchange. The individual took cologne, a chain, and a bracelet. *Shoplifting is a serious offense and when caught, you will pay a \$200 Civil Recovery Fee according to The Civil Recovery Act. Thieves also pay the cost of any unrecoverable goods for the offense and lose their Army Air Force Exchange Service, commissary and retail facility privileges for up to a year.*

June 6 – An Airman reported her wallet stolen. The last time she saw the wallet was at Burger King and later she discovered it missing. The wallet contained military star cards, debit cards, licenses, ID card, and a codice fiscale. *Complacency*

seems to be the most common indicator in lost or stolen property.

June 6 – Two Airmen were playing cards in the dorms when they got into an argument. The argument ended with one Airman punching the other. *Sounds like a game of Texas Punch-em! Don't we deploy together and go through situations and circumstances more deadly and devastating than to have this kind of unrest among ourselves?*

June 7 – An Airman parked and locked his vehicle, but left his rucksack in plain view in the backseat. When leaving for work he discovered the lock had been damaged and his rucksack stolen. *Things left in plain sight don't remain that way for long.*

June 7 – An Airman locked part of his house, but left the upstairs bathroom unlocked. When he returned home, he discovered someone had entered his house and stole a digital camera, gold watches, and two jars of change. *Even if you secured the residence a thief is willing to climb to the second floor to get in, so a house isn't actually secure unless you lock every door and window.*

June 9 – An Airman left his wallet sitting in plain sight on an end table in his residence. The next morning he noticed he had an overnight and uninvited visitor and his wallet was missing. He found his wallet outside with €45 and \$30 missing. *Was the house secured...what do you think?*

June 9 – An Airman went downstairs in his home and noticed items were missing from his residence. Missing items included a laptop, video camera, wallet, purse, cell

phone, uniform items and a tool set. The front door and back door were secured. The culprit climbed on the vehicle and climbed over the balcony to an open door. *Again, thieves will climb any height to get into your home.*

June 9 – An unknown man was knocking on doors in the Ceolini Built-to-Lease housing area. The individual was selling brooms and asking questions about the military and Americans in the area. The man was described as 5'6," black beard, and a thick Middle Eastern accent. *An observant caller did the right thing and called it in to security forces. The Cops and OSI responded to initiate an investigation. If you see suspicious activity call the Law Enforcement desk at Ext. 7200 immediately.*

June 9 – A contract guard reported a suspicious individual walking the perimeter of the base. The guard stated the individual was holding a camera, possibly recording and monitoring the area. The man ran off when he saw the guard. *It is difficult to tell the difference between innocent sight seers and terrorist pre-operational surveillance. If you see something out of the ordinary, call security forces.*

June 11 – A family member reported 150 liters of gas coupons missing from his vehicle. The individual secured the vehicle, but returned to find his zip-up windows down. *Lesson learned ... zippers can't really secure a car.*

June 11 – An Airman reported she discovered someone had shattered her car window. Nothing was stolen because she secured the vehicle and didn't leave anything in plain sight. *Maybe somebody really is reading these articles.*

Special Delivery



Photos by Airman 1st Class Michael S. Dorus

The Castro family welcomes their newest edition. Jeremiah Castro was the only baby born here at the Aviano Medical Treatment Facility on Father's Day. Bottom row: Isaiah, Celeen, Jeremiah, and Celeste. Top row: Raquel and Staff Sgt. Frank Castro, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



Staff Sgt. Frank Castro, 31st AMXS, holds his son Jeremiah Sunday.

Tune us in: Get up to date with AFN-Aviano on Decoder Channel 12.-- it's the same programming as Channel 2 but with Aviano information.

555th, from page 1

lic of Korea) allies flying training missions here," said Col. Preston "Wolf 2" Thompson, 8th FW vice commander.

Colonel Thompson also discussed why units such as the 555th FS deploy to Korea.

"We run regular deployments here because it's important for us to practice our ability to move our aircraft around the world," Colonel Thompson said. "It's also important for us to show our ROK allies that we have the ability to deploy planes here quickly if they ever had a need for us to do so."

"So it behooves us to train to that and bring planes in here every so often to practice that capability of rapidly deploying forces here if there were ever a need."

The colonel also discussed the benefits of training with the 555th FS.

"They will be flying normal training missions that we fly everyday to give our pilots a chance to train with the pilots from our squadrons in Europe and to give our ROK allies a chance to train with other pilots other than what we have here on the peninsula," he said.

"It's a continual way for us to improve our relations and to improve our abilities as a joint force team effort."

In order to successfully receive the members of the 555th FS, many agencies within the 8th FW worked diligently to ensure there were no glitches.

"It's definitely been a challenge for all of us to prepare for their arrival," said Staff Sgt. Omar Aguilar, 8th Operations Support Squadron, NCOIC executive officer.

"It's been a total team effort to get them here and we're

glad to have them as part of the 8th Fighter Wing."

Wing leadership is also welcoming the team.

"We're happy to have the "Triple Nickel" as part of the "Wolfpack," said Col. CQ "Wolf" Brown, 8th Fighter Wing commander.

Members of the 555th FS are looking forward to the experience of being deployed to Korea.

"I'm looking forward to a new experience. Usually when you deploy, you start from scratch but here you're actually a part of a wing that's already been established," said Senior Airman Amy Clunk, 555th FS Squadron Aviation Research Management.

"The main challenge I see is that it's a little bit of a cultural difference coming from Europe to Asia."

Officials noted the deployment of the 555th FS into the Pacific Command theater signifies the United States' continued commitment to the regional stability and security in the region.

As the war in Korea began, the 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing was the first fighter wing to fly combat missions, providing air cover for the evacuation of Americans from Korea on June 26, 1950, the day after North Korea invaded South Korea starting a war that lasted for three years.

For more than 50 years, the 8th FW has served the United States in the Pacific Theater.

The men and women of the wing continue to enrich history of the organization known the world over as the Wolf Pack.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Aviano MARE

Aviano Airmen took part in a Major Accident Response Exercise Tuesday to test their readiness. Above: Simulated wounded Airmen await treat-

ment. Top Right: Emergency responders take on the simulated fire. Bottom Right: Staff Sgt. Tracy Metcalf, 31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, preps moulage victim Senior Airman Kenneth Hauprich, 31st Maintenance Squadron, before the exercise.

Volunteers: The Aviano Thrift Shop is seeking volunteers to sort and display merchandise. For more information, call Ext. 5402.

Groups change command



Col. David A. Slade, new 31st Mission Support Group commander assumes command from Brig. Gen. Craig Franklin, 31st Fighter Wing commander during the change of command ceremony June 12.



Col. Thomas F. Gould, new 31st Operations Group commander assumes command from Brig. Gen. Craig Franklin, 31st Fighter Wing commander during the change of command ceremony June 14.

Technical sergeant promotees

31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

• Richard Alvarez • Joseph Ballantini • Troy Berglund • Timothy Clark • Albert Dawman • Joshua Lombardi • Jacob Messina • Matthew Nottingham • Marko Jankovic • Kendal Short • Andie Dertod • Corey Lobdell • Robert Lumpkin • Eric Engel • Christopher Sidell

31st Civil Engineer Squadron

• Joseph Rivera • Monique McFall • Michael Sisler

31st Communications Squadron

• Aaron Estrada • David Jennings • Kimberly Stuart • Kimyetta Wilkins

31st Contracting Squadron

• Melissa Blair

31st Dental Squadron

• Victor Aguallio • Camille Drummond • Violeta Olivo

31st Fighter Wing

• Sheena Edwards • Brian Mans

31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

• Ana Carrillo • Avriel Duverney • Antoine Williams • Syreeta Seamon • Anthony Edwards • Franklin Jez • Scott Fitzpatrick • Cassandra Laky • Stephanie Utley • Scott Young

31st Maintenance Group

• Andrew Abdinor • Michael Williams

31st Maintenance Operations Squadron

• Stewart Hughes • Jose Leon Berdecia • Julio Quinones • Brian Shumaker • Bryan Westerhouse • Jessica Wilson

31st Maintenance Squadron

• Sean Ardis • Jeffrey Back • Steven Fine • Nicke Forkapa • Emilio Gonzales • Eva Graney • Michael Hay • Eric Hill • Keith Huighe • Thomas Marr • Bobby McKenzie • Timothy Miller • Amanda Mowrey • Patrick King • Joel Remsnyder

31st Medical Operations Squadron

• Ronald Dunwiddie

31st Medical Support Squadron

• Bryan Horsey • Rowanna Murphy • Kerryann Hall

31st Mission Support Squadron

• Joshua Burk • Andre Smith • Steven

Hale • Caleb Garcia • Medreka Davis

31st Operations Support Squadron

• Aaron Carrillo • Lynn Huber • Regina Rittenhouse

31st Security Forces Squadron

• Heather Amos • Timothy Combs • Larry Benavides • James Coppola • Isaac Ferguson • Gene Fonseca • Joseph Marzullo • Paul Ruhbusch • Jason Sawyers • Gary Smith • Christopher Castillo • Don Wright • Cesar Villarreal

31st Services Squadron

• Misty Dawson • Karen Stoffle

8th Air Support Operations Squadron

• Eduardo Ramos

496th Air Base Squadron

• Jose Sedasreyes • Mark Drum • Robert Schuren • Wesley Stine

555th Fighter Squadron

• Timothy Whitney

603rd Air Control Squadron

• Sherica Harris • Stasa Davis • Daniel Lee • Andre McDonald • Christopher Rich • Urese Wiley

704th Munitions Squadron

• Jeremy Olsen • Daryl Reid • Jason Brown • Lee Bucknell • Keith Hittler • Luis Serranotorres • Brian Shurtleff • Leroy Svoboda • Heather Thompson • Raymond Josephson • Ryan Ziemer • Arthur Barfield

712th Munitions Squadron

• Tyson Andrews • Timothy Danne-miller • Jason Holler • Christopher Jackson • Michael Johnson • Ryan Keil • Eric Ramon • Julio Rubio • Rachel Youkey • Brian Sevy

724th Air Mobility Squadron

• Trent Hyland • Anthony Malmquist • William Ries • William Reis

725th Air Mobility Squadron

• Teofilo Alvarado • Kimberly Howell • Kristoffer Lacson • Robert Morris • Robert Young

Det. 4, 21st Operations Group

• Angel Lindroth • Shenita Haggins • Jason Mommaerts • Ryan Kruse

Det 8, Air Force News

• Adrienne Brammer

The Air Force selected 7,314 of 39,797 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant.

The technical sergeant rate, 18.38 percent, rose 1.62 percent from last year.

The average technical sergeant selectee score for the 07E6 technical sergeant test cycle was 317.17 points, based on the following:

- 133.30 Enlisted Performance Reports
- 60.86 Promotion Fitness Exam
- 53.90 Specialty Knowledge Test
- 37.98 Time in Grade
- 24.08 Time in Service
- 5.40 Decorations

The average technical sergeant selectee has 5.25 years time in grade and 10.91 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to technical sergeant from August to July 2008.

Information courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center news service



Master sergeant promotees

31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron

- Georgina Francis • Tracy Simmons
- Phillip Brandley

31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- Troy Blanchard • Anthony Floyd • Brian Hazelton • Daryl Jackson • James McKinney • Joseph Parsons • Victor Stephens

31st Civil Engineer Squadron

- Jerry Ruiz

31st Communications Squadron

- Archie Harville • John Sturdevant
- John Wegner

31st Contracting Squadron

- Sandra Siiberg

31st Fighter Wing

- Sonya Hildebrand • Abraham Malit
- Paul Nedrow • Lee Schmidt • Mark Takashima • Lisa Webb • James Young
- Lesley Perrine

31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

- Michael Alessandro • Capaccio Salvatore • Hosam Elsharawy • Daniel Flores • Kent Klotz • Michael Linhard • James McClung • Mical Turner • Winston Abreu • Jeffrey Smith

31st Maintenance Operations Squadron

- Andre Dean • Jesse Renteria

31st Maintenance Squadron

- Patrick Adams • William Bulock • Bennett Griffith • Jeffrey Soyster • Patrick Connor • Paige Crafton • Kenneth Dancer • David Gilbert • Sean Howell • Adam Jez • Kevin Mall • Roy Myers • Michael Rhudy • Damon Schweiger • Scott Stewart • Michael Sweeney • Scott Weum • John Whitman • Bradley Bukema

31st Medical Support Squadron

- Brenda Martinez-Lashley • Sean Taylor • Christopher Van Zandt

31st Mission Support Squadron

- Cresencio Kerby • Keith Sutton

31st Operations Support Squadron

- Michael Demaronese • Rusty Hayes
- Eric Sproesser

31st Security Forces Squadron

- Kenneth Collier • Geoff Dunkelberger • Michael Saahene • Andrew Williams • Joseph Diaz

31st Services Squadron

- Pamela Carson • Derrick Wells

372nd Training Squadron

- Brent Loucks

496th Air Base Squadron

- Gilbert Cano • John Glenn • Burke Kilburn • Mark Kuykendall • Kurtis Muenchow • Yasmin Mustapha • Jimmie Owens • Michael Parker • Glenn Echeverri • Jeffrey Matteson

603rd Air Control Squadron

- Joseph Adams • Karl Brown • Gregory Carr • Eric Clark • Addison Spencer
- Jason Swearingin

704th Munitions Squadron

- Chad Gallant

712th Civil Engineer Squadron

- William St. Peter

712th Munitions Squadron

- Ronald Miller • Chad Smith • Thomas Wheeler

725th Air Mobility Squadron

- Jason Harris • David Kennedy
- Adam Mazur • Benjamin Rouse

Det. 8, Air Force News

- Amy Velasquez

The Air Force selected 6,002 of 24,115 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant.

The master sergeant selection rate, 24.89 percent, rose 5.03 percent from last year.

The average master sergeant selectee score for the 07E7 master sergeant test cycle was 339.07 points, based on the following:

- 134.42 Enlisted Performance Reports
- 62.57 Promotion Fitness Exam
- 61.83 Specialty Knowledge Test
- 32.13 Time in Grade
- 35.46 Time in Service
- 12.09 Decorations

The average master sergeant selectee has 4.27 years time in grade and 17.02 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to master sergeant from August to July 2008.

There are approximately 5,900 non-commissioned officers who haven't tested yet because they are currently deployed or have just returned from a deployment. They will be allowed to test once they return and will automatically be considered for supplemental promotion. Supplemental results are announced on a monthly basis until everyone has been considered.

Information courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center news service



Open mic

The Community Center is hosting an open mic night from 10 p.m. to midnight Saturday.

Summer dance

Aviano Youth Programs are offering summer dance classes for youth ages 4 and older. The classes are from July 2 to Aug. 24 and include ballet, jazz and Broadway.

Parents can register their children from noon to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at the youth center. Space is limited. For more information, call Ext. 7575.

Camp

Aviano Youth Programs is accepting registrations for summer camp. Camps offered include magic, soccer, cheer and Missoula Children's Theater. Space is limited. For more information, call Ext. 7575.

Lil' Bambino

The Lil' Bambino playgroup is hosting a water party and a potluck luncheon from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday in Area D.

Pools, sprinklers and water games are available for children 5 and younger.

To sign up for the event and contribute a dish, e-mail lilbambino@hotmail.com.

Additionally, Lil' Bambino meets at Freedom Park from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. For more information, visit www.lilbambino.com.

Talent show

The Community Center is hosting an adult talent show at 7 p.m. July 20. People who would like to perform can pick up a registration packet at the Community Center. Deadline for registration is July 10. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Civilian personnel

The Civilian Personnel Flight has moved to Bldg. 600 in Area E and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The flight can be reached at Ext. 7291.

Additionally, the classification section has merged with the Manpower and

Chapel service schedule

Saturday

The following services are held at the base chapel:
11 a.m. – Seventh Day Adventist
5:30 p.m. – Catholic Mass

Sunday

The following services are held at the base chapel:
8:30 a.m. – Liturgical service
10 a.m. – Contemporary service
11:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass

4:30 p.m. – Church of Christ

The following services are held at various locations:
8:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass at the Italian chapel
10 a.m. – Gospel service at the Mass Briefing Facility

Daily Mass is held at noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the base chapel and at the Italian chapel on Fridays.

Organizational Flight. For classification assistance, call Ext. 4041.

Aviano 5/6

Aviano 5/6 meets at 3 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Professional Development Center. For more information, call Ext. 4376.

Country concert

Chely Wright will perform a country concert at 7 p.m. July 27 in Hangar One. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Central Texas College

Central Texas College is accepting registration for classes starting in July. For more information, call Ext. 5143.

University of Phoenix

New University of Phoenix students will save \$200 if they enroll in June. For more information, call Ext. 5139 or e-mail Tara.Carlsrud@phoenix.edu.

Oklahoma University

The Interdisciplinary Master of Arts Degree with an emphasis in International Relations is a non-thesis 32 semester hour degree program. For more information on the program or to sign up for summer 2007 courses, call Ext. 5977 or e-mail apaviano@ou.edu.

Degree program

Air University has a new

associate's to bachelor's degree program. The program is designed to help Airmen pursuing a Community College of the Air Force degree receive a bachelor's.

All Air Force enlisted members pursuing a bachelor's are eligible. Currently there are 20 participating colleges offering 30 degree programs. For more information, visit the virtual education center or call Ext. 5330.

MGIB

Airmen can make additional Montgomery GI Bill contributions above the initial \$1,200. Contributions may be made up to \$600 for an additional \$5,400 of benefits.

For more information or to contribute, contact the education center at Ext. 5330.

Officer PME

Officers can take advantage of Professional Military Education through correspondence and seminars.

For information on Squadron Officer School, visit <http://sos.maxwell.af.mil/socadl/>. For Air Command and Staff College information, visit <http://www.acsc.maxwell.af.mil/Distance%20Learning/distance-learning.htm>.

For Air War College, visit <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/awchome.htm>. Only ACSC and AWC offer seminars. For more information, call Ext. 5330.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. – "Ocean's Thirteen" Rated PG-13 – During a grand opening of a new casino, the Ocean gang attempts to pull off the riskiest casino heist ever. Starring: George Clooney, Al Pacino

Saturday, 7 p.m. – "Blades of Glory" Rated PG-13 – Two enemy figure skaters are banned from skating at the World Championships. In order to skate again, the skaters must join forces and become the first male/male figure skating pair to compete. Starring: Will Ferrel, Jon Heder

Sunday, 7 p.m. – "Ocean's Thirteen" Rated PG-13

Monday, 11 a.m. – "Everyone's Hero" Rated G – A young boy travels a 1,000 miles to help the New York Yankees win the World Series. Animated

Wednesday, 7 p.m. – "Perfect Stranger" Rated R – A woman, whose friend was murdered, changes her identity to get close to the killer. However, she soon realizes that she isn't the only one changing identities. Starring: Halle Berry, Bruce Willis

Thursday, 7 p.m. – "Pathfinder" Rated R – A young Norse boy is left behind after his Viking clan shipwrecks a 1,000 years ago. Years later, the Vikings return to stage another barbaric raid and now he must stop the trail of death and destruction. Starring: Karl Urban, Moon Bloodgood

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Local events

- A biker festival runs through Sunday in Zuglio, Mount Zoncolan, in the Udine Province. A U.S. car show wraps up the festival Sunday. For more information, visit www.bikerfest.com.

- A marionette and street performer festival begins at 6 p.m. Sunday in Corderoipo, Museo delle Carrozze d'epoca. For more information, log onto: www.associazionealce.interfree.it

- A prosciutto festival in San Daniele begins today and runs through Monday. The festival invites visitors to sample ham, enjoy music and exhibitions in the San Daniele historical centre, and guided visits to prosciuttifici (prosciutto factories) outside the city. For more information, log onto www.prosciuttosandaniele.it.

- A prawn festival begins today and runs through Sunday in Morsano al Tagliamento (PN.) The festival has food stands, prawn delicacies and dishes made with duck ragout. Enjoy the popular games and entertainment along the town roads.

- A strawberry and raspberry festival begins June 29 and runs through June 30 in Attimis near Udine. The festival has clowns, street performers, accordion competition and horse rides.

For more information on events in the local area, call Ext. 7555.

Experience a different type of Italy along the Amalfi coast

By Staff Sgt. Colleen Wieman
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Probably one of the most breathtaking places in Italy, the Amalfi coast, is a must see for those traveling south.

The jagged coastline is covered in small fishing villages selling seafood, ceramics and lemon products. Lemons grow in abundance in southern Italy and most food is made with the sour fruit. A popular alcoholic drink made from local lemons is Limoncello.

Travelers have two main options to see the picturesque coast. For the adventurous types, the Amalfi coast road is a good choice. The cliff-side road connects the villages on the coast, but it is very dangerous because of its small size, tight turns and competing traffic.

A safer and faster option is seeing the coast by boat. People who want to see the full magnitude of the coast's beauty or just enjoy being on the water will love the boat ride.

For a small fee, the ferries can take visitors sightseeing or to the coastal villages.

People interested in soaking up the summer sun will enjoy the many beaches along the coast. After a long day, people can enjoy local seafood served at the many restaurants that line the coast.

Besides its natural beauty, most of the coastal towns are very old and offer interesting architecture from several different cultural influences.

Since it is so different from the Aviano area, the Amalfi coast is a good way to get away from it all and add to your Italian experience.



Photos by Alex Wieman



Above: Lemons grow very large and in abundance in southern Italy. Townspeople along the Amalfi coast sell lemons and lemon products.

Left: From a boat, visitors can see the magnitude and beauty of the Amalfi coast. For tourist information, visit <http://www.amalfiscoast.com/>. The site is in English.

Ride the rails: Travel Italy and Europe by train. Visit <http://www.trenitalia.it> for train schedules and tickets. The site is in English.



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

Enjoy the 'La Boheme' opera from **Verona's** arena when ITT takes a trip there June 30.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- June 29 - July 3 – Imperial Capitals of Europe: Prague, Budapest and Vienna
- June 30 – Guided Milan and Last Supper museum
- June 30 – Aqualandia water park

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from destinations as sched-

uled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because most tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

Changes in works for PT uniform

By Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
*Secretary of the Air Force Office
of Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON – The Air Force uniform board is working to resolve issues with the Air Force physical training uniform.

The board has received nearly 500 inputs from Airmen including suggestions on ways to improve the uniform, and some of those changes are in the works, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

One of the biggest issues is the lining in the shorts, she said. Many Airmen feel the lining is too tight, so they are buying shorts two to three sizes larger than their usual size. The Air Force Clothing Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is modifying the lining to resolve this problem.

Another issue Airmen addressed was the weight of the running suit. The suits are currently made of a light-weight material coated with a wind and rain resistant finish which adds extra weight. The clothing office is researching alternative fabrics that would retain those weather-resistant qualities, yet reduce the weight. The office is also looking into a lighter weight fabric for the short-sleeve T-shirt.

In addition to these changes, the board has decided to introduce other optional PT uniform items within a year.

One of those items is shorts geared for long-distance runners. They are currently looking into running shorts with a split halfway up the leg.

They also plan to introduce a long-sleeve T-shirt, medium-weight sweatshirt and fleece vest with a zipper.

Base pool: Pool passes are available at outdoor recreation. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

Testicular cancer signs, symptoms —

**By Maj. William Reynolds
and Maria Krue**
31st Medical Group

National Men's Health Week was last week and the 31st Medical Group would like to raise the awareness of testicular cancer.

About 8,000 men are diagnosed with testicular cancer, and about 390 men die of this disease each year. Testicular cancer occurs most often in men between the ages of 20 and 39, and is the most common form of cancer in men between the ages of 15 and 34.

The exact causes of testicular cancer are unknown. However, studies have shown that several factors increase a man's chance of developing this disease.

Factors include:

- Undescended testicle – Normally, the testicles descend from inside the abdomen into the scrotum before birth. The risk of testicular cancer is increased in males with a testicle that does not move down into the scrotum. This risk does not change even after surgery to move the testicle into the scrotum.

The increased risk applies to both testicles.

- Congenital abnormalities – Men born with abnormalities of the testicles, penis, or kidneys, as well as those with inguinal hernia (hernia in the groin area, where the thigh meets the abdomen), may be at increased risk.

- History of testicular cancer – Men who have had testicular cancer are at increased risk of developing cancer in the other testicle.

- Family history of testicular cancer – The risk for testicular cancer is greater in men whose brother or father has had the disease.

Most testicular cancers are found by men themselves. Also, doctors generally examine the testicles during routine physical exams. Between regular checkups, if a man notices anything unusual about his testicles, he should talk with his doctor. Men should see a doctor if they notice any of the following symptoms:

- A painless lump or swelling in a testicle
- Pain or discomfort in a testicle or in the scrotum
- Any enlargement of a testicle or change in the way it feels

- A feeling of heaviness in the scrotum
- A dull ache in the lower abdomen, back, or groin
- A sudden collection of fluid in the scrotum

These symptoms can be caused by cancer or by other conditions. It is important to see a doctor to determine the cause of any of these symptoms.

To help find the cause of symptoms, the doctor will evaluate a man's general health. The doctor also performs a physical exam and may order laboratory and diagnostic tests. These tests include a blood test, ultrasound, and biopsy.

This cancer remains rare, affecting only one percent of all cancers in U.S. men. Taking care of yourself should be of top priority. Eating well, getting enough sleep, exercising regularly and being proactive about medical care are many steps to becoming healthier.

For more information, visit <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/sites-types/testicular>.

The National Cancer Institute contributed to this article.

Fly Bys

Kids golf clinic

The Alpine Golf Course is offering a kids golf clinic from 8 to 9:30 a.m. for ages 8-10 and 3 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 11-13 Monday through June 29. Between noon and 2 p.m. June 29, the clinic will be open to all ages. The cost is \$49 and includes eight hours of instruction, three-to-four-hole graduation tournament, hat, shirt, towel, tees, and a rules and etiquette booklet. Participants can also earn 200 Extreme Summer points. The deadline to sign up is today. For more information, call Ext. 7386.

Golf tournament

The Alpine Golf Course is hosting a pre-Fourth of July tournament at 8:30 a.m. Sunday. The tournament is a four person blind scramble. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Winners must be present to claim prizes. For more information, call Ext. 7386.

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners host a Volksmarch at 6 p.m. Saturday. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in the Roveredo Square and heads to Maron di Brugnera.

The group will also hold another Volksmarch at 7:45 a.m. Sunday. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in the Roveredo Square and heads to Cimpello di Fiume Veneto. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Summer strike

The bowling center is hosting Summer Strike Force July 1 through July 31. People can pick up a punch card and win different prizes.

Punches come from bowling a game or buying a beverage and 10 punches enters people into monthly prize drawings. Participants can also enter to win \$250 or \$500. For more information, call Ext. 7487.

Abide the law, ride with the proper headgear

**By Master Sgt.
Christopher Daniels**
*U.S. Air Forces in Europe
mishap prevention*

It's a taste of heaven – the sun is out. There's a gentle breeze. The road is calling you – a perfect day to ride your motorcycle. Your bike is all shined up, your gas tank is full and you're ready...

But wait – don't forget your helmet! That's the most important part of your riding gear. In fact, did you know that your U.S. Department of Transportation approved motorcycle helmet may not be in compliance with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) standards of your host country?

We at U.S. Air Forces in Europe mishap prevention would like to share ECE information with you. In fact, with the exception of Germany and Turkey, U.S. personnel wearing helmets which only meet DOT standards are not in compliance with the laws of most European countries. Motorcycle operators are subject to fines in those countries for non-compliance.

The disparity between U.S. and European motorcycle helmet safety standards was recently identified by the USAFE legal review of the Status of Forces Agreement.

First and foremost, we hope the revelation of the legal requirement to wear ECE 22.05 certified helmets, and our efforts to widely publicize this information, will result in a greater level of protection by ruling out the wear of the minimally protective half-helmets.

After all, the purpose of these standards is to reduce deaths and injuries to motorcyclists and other motor vehicle users resulting from head impacts. The new ruling should serve a secondary purpose of easing border crossings to ensure our riders are legally sufficient wherever they ride

within Europe.

So how does this ruling effect motorcycle riders with DOT approved or Snell Memorial Foundation (SMF) certified helmets or individuals PCSing to Europe? Simply put, the NATO SOFA does not provide exceptions (other than Germany or Turkey) for the wear of motorcycle helmets; therefore, members who ride without an ECE 22.05 certified helmets are in non-compliance with the rules of the road in most European Countries.

Don't worry, it's not all bad! The good news is that some DOT approved helmets are "dual" DOT and ECE certified. Although many Web sites offer information on DOT, Snell and ECE certification, we recommend that you contact your helmet manufacturer for definitive certification.

Know before you buy. Learn all the facts. Don't buy a motorcycle helmet based simply on perceived image or marketing hype. Remember, helmets are the single most effective means of preventing head injuries.

For many, the fresh air and freedom of the open road is an irresistible and enjoyable draw to motorcycling. You should not have to worry about whether you will get a ticket or have to explain to your supervisor or commander why you were not in compliance.

The following is information about USAFE ECE requirements:

- The ECE rule is required throughout the command to ensure our people are legal when crossing borders.

- The ECE requirement is in compliance with host nation law.

Following a fatal motorcycle crash investigation, legal and safety reviews of motorcycle personal protective equipment requirements were conducted and revealed DOT certified helmets were not legal in most of our

host nations – our personnel were in violation of the law.

- ECE certification is the most common certification in the world – it is mandatory or recognized in over 50 countries world-wide. It is the standard in Europe and helmets are readily available in a broad range of models, sizes and colors.

- Helmets ECE certified will have a label on the inside or stamped markings on the chin strap indicating it is ECE 22.05 certified.

- Snell certification is not a national standard, it is a certification sought by helmet manufactures as premier testing standard. Snell certification is one of the most stringent; if a helmet achieves this level of certification it would almost certainly exceed ECE standards.

That said, the helmet must still bear the ECE label or you must have proof from the manufacture that your helmet has been tested and received ECE certification.

- Those who have a helmet not ECE certified must purchase a certified one.

- The USAFE supplement to AFI 91-207, the U.S. Air Force Traffic Safety Program, has been changed to reflect the ECE requirement.

Like all rules, regulations and laws, it is each individual's personal responsibility to know and comply with the requirement. Offenders risk the expected consequences associated with violation of any law.

It is essential all personnel know and comply with the laws, regulations and customs of host countries. Equally important is protecting our personnel and keeping them from harm.

For more information on the ECE helmet requirement, call the 31st Fighter Wing safety office at Ext. 4808.

Recognizing The World's Finest

• Congratulations Central Texas College 2007 graduates: Dwight Collins, Jose Manzano, and Tiffany Davis.

• The Aviano Middle School would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Aviano Middle School Patriot Field Day: Monica and Chris Casmedes, Donald Russo, Tisha Saucedo, Daniel Von Schimpf, Jessica Wilson, Kyna Sanders, Keith Frenzel, Julia Andujar, Nick Psaltakis, Scotty Cass, Herbert Elliott, Montoya Goodloe, Tammy and Robert Fetzer, Rufus Reeves, Albert Stephens, Damita Stephens, Porscha Howard, Latia Hinton, Isabell May, Danielle Todman, LaShonda Zackery, Tanisha Pryor, Ian Seagle, Bruce Ballard, Brian Neal, Car-

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